



Montana's

EUDL NEWS

Adult and youth scholarships
are available for the National
Leadership Conference.

April 15, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 1

Flathead County Alcohol Enforcement Team:

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST

Flathead County Detective Travis Bruyer and the Alcohol Enforcement Team organized a discussion regarding a proposed No Host ordinance for Flathead County. The meeting was by invitation and was held at The Summit on April 2, 2008. The purpose of the No Host ordinance is to discourage underage drinking at house parties.

County Commissioner Joe Brenneman told Detective Bruyer that all three county commissioners are in favor of a social host ordinance. The ordinance needs approval from the state legislature

before any county can adopt it; Senator Greg Barkus, R-Kalispell, has agreed to introduce the measure.

Research suggests that house parties are high-risk settings for binge drinking and associated alcohol problems. According to the National Research Council Institute of Medicine (2003), very young drinkers are often introduced to binge drinking behaviors at house parties. Since 2005, over 400 Flathead County adults have been arrested for providing alcohol to minors.



Social host liability laws send a clear message to adults that providing alcohol to underage youth is not acceptable.

Wheatland County:

Harlowton Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking

Approximately one hundred Harlowton young people, public officials, parents, community leaders, and representatives of health organizations, education, law enforcement, highway safety, and businesses met at Hillcrest Elementary on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, to discuss the local problem of underage drinking. The purpose of the town hall meeting was to raise awareness of the dangers of underage drinking, and identify the steps parents, community leaders, and concerned citizens can take to combat and prevent it.

Using a survey developed and filled out by Harlowton junior high and high school students, small groups discussed the following questions: Is there a problem with underage drinking in Harlowton and what does it look like? Why

is there underage drinking in Harlowton? And what could be done to address the issue?

Eight groups unanimously decided that underage drinking is a problem in the community and suggested many possible reasons. Groups also suggested several distinct areas where Harlowton residents can make a difference in the local use of alcohol. First, all adults need to set a better example for youth by not drinking or drinking responsibly themselves. Second, parents need to know what their children are doing, repeatedly let kids know that underage drinking is not acceptable, and make sure there are plenty of alcohol-free activities available for their children. Third, the community needs to reduce advertising of alcohol products, increase early alcohol and drug

education, and change the culture of acceptance of underage drinking, which includes equal punishment for anyone who breaks the law. The community needs to send a strong, clear message through its behavior and the legal system that underage drinking will not be tolerated. Detailed results of group discussion and information about future meetings can be found at the local web address: harlowton.communityblogs.us.

Harlowton's second Town Hall Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2nd at 7 p.m. at Hillcrest. Everyone who is concerned about this problem is encouraged to participate in making Harlowton a safer and healthier community for our children. Harlowton is one of 1600 communities nationwide to receive a \$500 grant to hold town hall meetings on underage drinking.

Inside this issue:

Southwest Montana Community Change Project	2
Responsible Alcohol Server and Sales Training	2
National Leadership Conference	2
Potential EUDL Partners in the Medical Community	2
Energy Drinks and Alcohol	3
Every 15 Minutes	3
Off-Sale Compliance Checks	4
DCTAT Reporting: Putting Statistics to Good Use	4
"Let's Control It" Training Schedule	5



Harlowton Town Meeting
March 19, 2008

Did you know...

- In 2007, 77.8% of Montana high school students have had a drink of alcohol, compared to 74.1% nationally (2005 YRBS, CDC).
- Methamphetamine use is reported by 4.6% of Montana high school students, compared to 5.9 % nationally (2007 YRBS).

Catalyst for Change

The Butte-Silver Bow Health Department held a Town Hall Meeting on April 10, 2008, at the Butte High School Auditorium at 7 pm to discuss weak alcohol laws in Montana and launch the Southwest Montana Community Change Project, a project to address binge drinking and drinking and driving in Butte-Silver Bow, Madison, Powell, Deer Lodge, and Beaverhead Counties. Approximately 200 people from the community and the surrounding area attended the meeting.

Local and state officials, including Attorney General Mike McGrath, formed a panel to discuss Montana's alcohol laws and to endorse Mariah's Challenge, a project targeting teens and challenging them to abstain from alcohol. Mariah McCarthy, a 14-year-old girl from Butte, was killed by a drunk driver October 28, 2007. At Mariah's funeral, Leo McCarthy, Mariah's father, issued a challenge to the community. He challenged the kids to not drink, law enforcement and judges to enforce existing laws and penalties, retailers and tavern owners to eliminate sales to minors, and adults to act responsibly in their own alcohol use.

Attorney General Mike McGrath emphasized the need to change the culture. "Enforcement, education, prevention treatment; we've done a lot in this state, but we have a long way to go," he said. McGrath mentioned the graduated driver license, open container law, and the lowering of the blood alcohol content to .08. Sheriff John Walsh briefly discussed social host ordinances, explaining to the audience that the ordinances do not represent prohibition. More town hall meetings are scheduled in Dillon, Whitehall, Sheridan, and Boulder.

RESPONSIBLE ALCOHOL SERVER AND SALES TRAINING

The Montana Department of Revenue's (DOR) Liquor Education program, "Let's Control It" is open to alcohol servers and retail sales clerks. This interactive and informative class lasts approximately 3 hours. Safe Kids Safe Communities (SKSC) coordinators and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) prevention counselors are certified trainers. For information regarding how to offer "Let's Control It" to your area merchants, contact the Department of Revenue, DPHHS, or your local SKSC coordinator.

See page 5 for a schedule of "Let's Control It" classes in Butte, Helena, and Missoula. To have classes listed in next quarter's newsletter, please send the information to jfischer2@mt.gov.

Save the Date: August 21-23, 2008

National Leadership Conference

A Notable History: Forging the Future

The tenth annual National Leadership Conference will be held in Nashville, TN, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center August 21-23, 2008. Online registration will be available February 15, 2008, at www.udetc.org. Call 1-866-972-6779 to reserve your room; mention the National Leadership Conference to receive a special rate.

Novice and advanced tracks will be offered in Enforcement Operations and Techniques, Environmental Strategies, Population-Specific Programs, Research, Youth, Judicial Initiatives, Probation and Parole Initiatives, and Prosecutorial Strategies. The Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center invites participants to submit a proposal for a workshop presentation. Proposals should detail effective programs that can be sustained over time. Youth submissions are encouraged.

Early Bird Registration (before June 15) is \$150; and the cost of registrations after June 15, 2008, is \$199. Youth registration is \$50. The Montana Board of Crime Control has scholarships available for adults and youth. For more information about the scholarships, contact jfischer2@mt.gov.



POTENTIAL EUDL PARTNERS IN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY

Long-term reductions in high-risk drinking behaviors and consequences are the documented results of a subanalysis of 226 young adults in a Wisconsin study. Project TrEAT (Trial of Early Alcohol Treatment) was conducted in 64 primary care physicians' offices in 10 Wisconsin counties.

Patients completed a health screen survey which included questions about alcohol use. Researchers contacted individuals whose answers indicated they were positive for at-risk alcohol use and invited them to participate in a one-on-one interview. The primary care physician conducted 2 short counseling sessions 4 weeks apart.

The results of the study indicate that if physicians spend just a few minutes talking with their patients about alcohol use, between 40% and 50% of the patients will change their behaviors and reduce their risk for alcohol-related incidents. Details of the study may be found at www.annfammed.org.

ENERGY DRINKS AND ALCOHOL: A DEADLY COMBINATION

The newest alcoholic beverage of choice by underage drinkers is alcoholic energy drinks. These prepackaged drinks contain alcohol, caffeine, and other stimulants. Companies market their products through Internet sites such as MySpace and Facebook, and free samples are given away at sporting events, concerts, and other places where teens gather.

Underage drinkers want the buzz and the edginess associated with the products like Catalyst, Rockstar 21, and Agwa. Agwa is a coca-based alcoholic energy drink manufactured in Holland, soon to be available in the United States, and advertised on MySpace. MySpace has a one blog dedicated entirely to the use of Agwa. Energy drinks are popular, particularly with youth ages 12 - 17; because alcoholic energy drinks are marketed similarly to nonalcoholic energy drinks, the transition is an easy one for kids to make.

One concern is the challenge of distinguishing an ordinary energy drink from an alcoholic energy drink. Another is pricing; in some convenience stores, alcoholic energy drinks are priced lower than the nonalcoholic brands. On May 10, 2007, 29 state attorneys general sent a letter to Anheuser-Busch regarding Spykes, a 12% alcoholic beverage sold in 2-ounce bottles, requesting that the company pull the product from the market because of the health and safety risks related to the combination of caffeine and alcohol.

Check out an article published by the Marin Institute regarding health issues and alcoholic energy drinks at the following website:

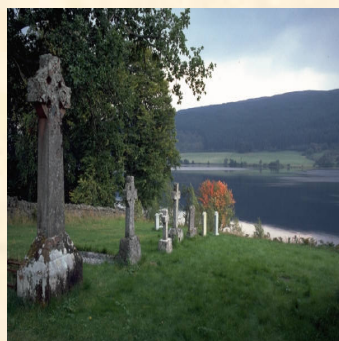
<http://www.marininstitute.org/alcopops/resources/EnergyDrinkReport.pdf>



Did you know ...

- Among male drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 who were involved in fatal crashes in 2005, 24% had been drinking (NHTSA 2006a, NHTSA 2006b).
- In 2005, half of teen deaths from motor vehicle crashes occurred between 3 pm and midnight and 54% occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday (IIHS 2006).

[Retrieved electronically from the Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov>]



Community Program Highlights: Every 15 Minutes

Every 15 Minutes is a program that targets teens and provides the entire community with a grim view of drinking and driving during a two-day event.

During the first day, pre-selected students are removed from their classrooms, one every 15 minutes, by the Grim Reaper. A police officer immediately enters and reads the student's obituary written in advance by the student's parents, explaining the circumstances of the accident and the contributions the student made to the community. Moments later the student returns, wearing white "death" make-up, a coroner's tag, and a black Every 15 Minutes t-shirt. The "dead" students are not allowed to interact with their classmates, and uniformed officers will make mock death notifications to the parents at home or work.

After lunch a traffic accident simulation will be viewed on school grounds, and rescue workers will treat the "injured" students. The coroner will identify fatalities, firefighters and paramedics will use the Jaws of Life to extricate students, and uniformed officers will investigate, arrest, and book the DUI drivers. Student participants actually visit the morgue, the hospital emergency room, and the police station. At the end of the day, the "dead" students are transported to a pre-selected spot for an overnight retreat facilitated by counselors and police officers; the purpose is to simulate separation from family and friends. Parents and students write letters to one another, and the letters are shared at an assembly the next day. Other activities include exercises and simulations such as impaired simulator goggles which allow students to safely experience the dangers of impaired driving.

A mock funeral is held on the second day, hosted by a police officer who takes the audience through the experience of losing someone to an alcohol-related accident. Implementation of the program requires a well-coordinated effort among school officials, law enforcement, fire department, and medical personnel. The program engages students, parents, and the whole community.

The Every 15 Minutes organization has \$500 mini-grants available to high schools for the purchase of approved supplies related to the operation and presentation of the program. For more information regarding the "Every 15 Minutes" program and training, call 1-610-814-6418 or go to <http://everyfifteenminutes.com>.

OFF-SALE COMPLIANCE CHECKS: NOT ENTRAPMENT



Did you know...

- Between 2002 and 2006 the number of 8th grade students in Montana who used ATODs during the past 30 days fell from 28% to 23.3% (2006 Montana Prevention Needs Assessment Survey).
- Perceived availability of alcohol decreased 1% to 1.7% in each grade since the 2004 survey (2006 Montana Prevention Needs Assessment Survey).
- Combined 2005 and 2006 data indicate that an annual average of 28.3% of persons aged 12 to 20 in the United States (an estimated 10.8 million persons annually) drank alcohol in the past month (Research findings from the SAMHSA 2005 and 2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health).

Failing a compliance check can trigger a wide range of emotions from the retailer, from embarrassment to anger, and retailers sometimes assume that law enforcement agencies are trying to trick the merchants into selling alcohol to youth. "Entrapment is the conception and planning of an offense by an officer, and his procurement of its commission by one who would not have perpetrated it except for the trickery, persuasion, or fraud of the officer" (Sorrells v. United States 287 U.S. 435 [1932]. Although compliance checks do not constitute entrapment, any actions by

a buyer that could be seen as persuading someone who would not normally commit a crime to do so could be challenged. It is important that law enforcement personnel give buyers clear instructions about what can and cannot be said during a purchase attempt.

The less a buyer says during an off-sale purchase attempt, the better. The buyer should not ask for a receipt; if one is offered, the buyer should take it and give it to the officers for evidence purposes. If the buyer recognizes the clerk, the buyer should either attempt to go to a different cash register or return to

the officers.

Buyers should avoid making purchase attempts during a very busy period or when there is an unusual occurrence, such as a dispute, at the sales counter. This denies a defense of extraordinary circumstances. If the clerk asks for age or date of birth, the buyer must answer truthfully and wait for the clerk to either calculate the buyer's age or request an ID.

For additional resources, including model community policies and community festivals materials, visit <http://www.epi.umn.edu/alcohol>.

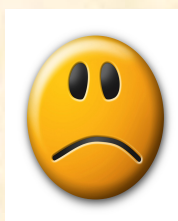
DCTAT REPORTING:

PUTTING STATISTICS TO GOOD USE

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is implementing a new tool to gather EUDL activity data. The Performance Measures Data Collection and Technical Assistance Tool (DCTAT) compiles EUDL activity statistics from across the nation and uses that information to influence congressional decision-making. EUDL subgrantees submit data online every six months at www.ojjdp-dctat.org through individual user IDs and passwords. Basic grant information has already been entered for each subgrantee.

Contact Julie Fischer at the Montana Board of Crime Control at 444-2056 or jfischer2@mt.gov for your user ID and password. EUDL subgrantees may access DCTAT at <http://www.ojjdp-dctat.org/index.cfm>.

ANOTHER REPORT?



Quarterly Reports are due at MBCC by April 20, 2008.

“Let’s Control It!”

Responsible Alcohol Server Training Schedule For Alcohol Servers and Retail Clerks

April

- 04/09/08 Missoula City-County Health Department, 301 West Alder, in the Health Promotion Conference Room (basement), 6-9 pm.
- 04/10/08 Butte Silver Bow at the Comfort Inn on Dewey from 1:30 to 4 pm. Contact Amiee Haffey at 497-5003 to register.
- 04/15/08 Missoula City-County Health Department, 301 West Alder, in the Health Promotion Conference Room (basement), 6-9 pm.

May

- 05/06/08 Butte Silver Bow at the Comfort Inn on Dewey from 1:30 to 4 pm. Contact Amiee Haffey at 497-5003 to register.
- 05/07/08 Missoula City-County Health Department, 301 West Alder, in the Health Promotion Conference Room (basement), 6-9 pm.
- 05/13/08 Missoula City-County Health Department, 301 West Alder, in the Health Promotion Conference Room (basement), 6-9 pm.
- 05/28/08 Carroll College in the Sienna/Ross Room in the Commons Building. Call Tracie Nielson at 324-1072 to register.

June

- 06/10/08 Missoula City-County Health Department, 301 West Alder, in the Health Promotion Conference Room (basement), 6-9 pm.
- 06/18/08 Missoula City-County Health Department, 301 West Alder, in the Health Promotion Conference Room (basement), 6-9 pm.

To add training dates and locations to the list, please email the details to jfischer2@mt.gov.